

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER**  
**Community Development Department**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**June 5, 2008**  
**Lanesville Community Center**  
**8 Vulcan Street**  
**Gloucester, MA 01930**

**Community Forum on Gloucester Harbor**

*Mayor Carolyn Kirk* began the forum at 7:10 and ended the forum at 9:00.

*Mayor Carolyn Kirk* welcomed everyone, exclaiming what a great turnout the community meetings have had; over 400 people have attended the last two meetings. She asked why Lanesville is a "listening post". The Harbor is a city issue and Lanesville is part of the city, and the harbor is not just an issue about fishing, industry, it is a huge issue in terms of community development. She stated that change is needed, and a dialogue about what kind of change and what public policy we will have. She spoke about the panel which she calls the "impartial jury of Gloucester residents", who will listen and come to consensus on where we have consensus. She continued that there is much more common ground than what divides us on the harbor. She recognized Councilor Jackie Hardy for her support, and thanked the City Council for being patient with the process to explore the four (4) scenarios of the harbor. She added that the Council had initiated zoning around the Fort but she asked them to hold off allowing the administration, professionals and city staff to work on consensus of harbor and to help shape the community. She recognized the panel to introduce themselves.

- *Tom Balf*, Environmental Energy Expert
- *Doug Cook*, Landscape Design Architect
- *Phil Cusumano*, Artist
- *Robert Foley*, Former Merchant Marine
- *Rosalyn Frontiera*, Former Waterfront Family
- *Capt. Paul Frontierro*, Owner of Seven Seas Whale Watch
- *David Marsh*, Retired Commercial Banker
- *Scott Memhard*, Owner of Cape Pond Ice
- *Reverend Fayette Severance*, Member of the Clergy

*Sarah Buck*, Community Development Director and Harbor Plan Coordinator and Lanesville neighbor, asked for each person to relate to the harbor and listen to others and look for changes. She stated that the Harbor Plan draft held 14 public meetings, that we have learned ways the plan hasn't worked in the past, and ways to bring energy back to the harbor, we need voices. Ms. Buck then made a PowerPoint presentation of the "4 Harbor Scenarios": The Fort, Harbor Cove, Waterfront Property Owners' Approach, and East Gloucester Harbor Front. She identified the Cambridge Seven Designers who are creating drawings of harbor ideas. (The PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.) Ms. Buck then outlined the meeting's procedure: speakers will have 3 minutes to express their ideas of the harbor, Liz Neumeier will let you know if you have gone over your 3 minutes; new speakers will start dialogue and then those who have spoken at former meetings will have opportunity to speak. She expressed to the audience that we are looking at ideas not plans, as well as what is compatible with Gloucester Harbor.

*Lynn Klotz*, 5 Duley Street, said that he has been a resident for 6-7 years and a property owner before that for 6-7 years. He explained that he along with Joe and Maggie Rosa are collaborating on creating the Gloucester Biotechnical Initiative which would bring marine, nano, biotechnology to the city. This initiative would have two components: 1) it would bring to Gloucester small businesses that need incubator space for a big company that is secure, which means that 50% cost sharing would be through state, not Gloucester; and 2) it would establish training programs, working with Ron Gerry and Paul Hubbard for high school students, fishermen and local workers

*Ms. Buck* encouraged the audience to come forward and talk about how they relate to the harbor.

*Sam Cleaves*, 1111 Washington Street, discussed some themes: it's important for the city to visualize all aspects of the harbor; city needs to have strong design guidelines; we should encourage mixed use, and support downtown and art sectors; there should be a water shuttle; and bike and pedestrian access should be accommodated throughout the city; Gloucester Crossing should be integrated with city economic planning and should be linked with the downtown not segregated; he favored adding uses while maintaining view sheds; and like Boston, create more access to the harbor; and perhaps create a special overlay district for additional uses. He ended by saying that we should think what Gloucester was over the past 300 years as we plan its future.

*Pete Parsons* stated that he grew up in Lanesville and has lived on the Fort and Commercial Street. He unfurled a leather portrait of his grandfather with a fish, explaining how he came from Finland to Gloucester to become a fisherman out of Lanes Cove, when he could have worked in the more lucrative business of quarrying. He stated that we should think about the kind of quality of life we want: Gloucester has 400 years of history, do we want to be just a bedroom community?

*Jim Tarantino*, 26 Fort Square, stated that he is President of the Dory Racing Committee, has been inspired by the Maritime Heritage Center which offers community access to harbor through their dories. He urged the panel to see that the Fort is not over developed. He said that Gloucester should preserve its fishing heritage, and that a big part of Gloucester is its people.

*Jack Dahlmer*, 16 Woodbury Street, said that he has been catching lobsters for 29 years, that his family has lived and worked in Gloucester for 100 years. He stated that we should look at Gloucester's future; what it was and what it is to become. His discussion: In the past, there would be no discussion or questions about the use of the harbor: fishing was the all mighty. We should look at and learn from mistakes: Russian ships, 200 mile limit, etc. In the 60's Gloucester sold its soul to urban renewal with I4C2, cement buildings, electric company and function hall on the waterfront. It would take millions of dollars to update the waterfront; and there are underutilized species of fish to invest in. The city fought Doyon's off the harbor; Gloucester is a fish town, and the city should give waterfront owners a tax break. He ended by saying that we should take extreme caution in what we want in the future.

*Carly Johnson Osier*, 211 East Main Street, said that she grew up in East Gloucester. She would like to see a city-owned marina that would accommodate boaters 8 months of the year. By having a marina where they can dock for a night or two the boaters would bring revenue to the city

*Steve Kaity*, 545 Washington Street, said that he has been working with Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce: they are not looking to put condos on the harbor or to pave it with sailboat parking. He stated that the property owners should be given some relief as they are losing money every day, which is reason why the harbor is deteriorating. In looking for access we need dockage. He stated that 90% of the harbor is owned by private owners who need to make a living.

*Sandy Eaton*, 4 Leonard Street, stated that creative people came together to make the harbor better through creation of the Maritime Heritage Center. She said that we should keep the spirit of Gloucester alive. She questioned how "Cruiseport" happened to be built? Who said they could build buildings like it? She said that so much pavement goes right down to the water; this should not be allowed to happen to the harbor.

*Liz Neumeier*, 28 Coggeshall Road, said that she has lived in Lanesville since 1993 and in Pittsburgh, PA and Duluth, Minn. before. She cited these cities as examples of "sense of place": in Pittsburgh there is a warehouse district which has retained its character while bringing in wholesalers and artists. It is now a major draw, and with seasonal issue there is dependence on tourism. Duluth has an industrial waterfront with iron boats loading on Lake Superior. The city built covered walkways so that people are moving around in all seasons. Gloucester could look like Duluth but not by outside developers.

*Russell Hobbs*, 1166 Washington Street, said that he grew up in downtown Gloucester and that his family members were stonecutters. He stated that I4C2 and the Building Center as filled in land are examples of what should not be on the harbor, and that we should be careful of what we build, of what we want. He added that there should be no condos on the harbor, but that the hotel and harbor walk are good ideas.

*Karl Frank*, 15 Haskell Street, said that he has lived in Gloucester for 15 years and expressed his thoughts as how someone new sees the harbor: He stated that access to the harbor has deteriorated; he used to walk from his house to downtown but was cut off by a newly built wall. Then a cyclone fence was put up around freezer plant so he could not view fireworks. He stated that cutting off access is an issue today and wonders whether the city is vigilant in protecting what is already there.

*Carol Gray*, 59 Woodbury Street, said that she has lived in Lanesville for 28 years. She has observed that students and young people are missing from the harbor. She remembered her experience with the "Sea Scouts" and would like to see young people using the harbor.

*Eric Bornhofft*, 5 Squam Rock Lane, said that his family has lived in Annisquam for three generations, and that he has been a sword fisherman and sailor, and has been employed by Shawmut Bank. He stated that the reason for city's deterioration is failure of city officials to see and want change. He continued that city needs zoning change, and that everyone should be encouraged to read the DPA documents to understand the regulations and how they keep any change at bay. He stated that property owners will not get relief through zoning change unless city stands up and tells the state. He ended by saying that the city needs to build a better tax base.

*Ms. Buck* stated that we have extraordinary ability of people here tonight who may not agree with one another. We should get themes out of this, while we consider how people relate to and wish to relate to the waterfront. She added that individual positions show where our heart is, what our vision is.

*Gail Burchard*, 518 Washington Street, stated that she's interested in Gloucester's farmer's market at Harbor Loop and wondered whether an open air market could be included at I4C2. She cited Seattle market which includes local crafts. She expressed desire for fish market along with produce market.

*Melissa Hobbs*, 1166 Washington Street, stated that she would like people to remember our heritage and to move forward, to invite people to Gloucester without making drastic changes. She said that we need to think about preserving our history.

*Valerie Nelson*, 7 Sunset Point Road, said that Lanesville has long been a hotbed of radicals. She stated that the core question is the issue of how to preserve fishing heritage and get more business for waterfront owners. She added that it would be short-sighted and outmoded to change zoning for recreation activity and retail. At Monday's meeting a woman from Durham, NH said that she wants to locate pelagic fish studies in Gloucester, and talked with MIT professor about marine biotechnical incubators which would help economic growth. We're subsidizing Gloucester Crossing. We should invest in dockage and ask state for funds. We should not change zoning for recreational boating and shops and real estate.

*Jack LeVie*, 1 Nathaniel Circle, Wenham, said he is a waterfront property owner (49R Parker Street). He stated that fixing the docks is a costly venture and that property owners need more options and reasons to be on the waterfront. He suggested expanding second and third floors to be used for offices and businesses, and that by bringing in businesses like biotechnical, and with high gas prices going up, people could walk to downtown bringing their money for shopping. He stated that Gloucester needs to have a better tax base; the city needs this harbor plan.

*Patty Paige*, stated that she runs the High School Sailing program, which Mass Bay League Sailing Program organizes for high schools. Now in its third year she said that it is a proven educational program, it has helped team building, develop life time skills, and has promoted public access to the harbor for the students. She added that with Damon Cummings' help there is also a city summer sailing

program and kayaking, and with this public access such sailing programs need a home. She added that the Sea Scout program still exists.

*Carmine Gorga*, 87 Middle Street, stated that we should consider the following three issues that the NY Times recently brought up: 1) billions of dollars are invested in food, food is the next gold, and in Gloucester food is fish and is essential part of the living component; 2) New York Times tells of small Maine town that almost died until a few people restarted the paper industry. He questioned how to integrate fishing industry with fertilizers, oils, lobsters, shrimp, and transport them from Gloucester to Boston; Gloucester needs to collaborate with MIT; and 3) article about poor in LA who get up early to stand in line to get medical assistance.

*Susanne Altenburger*, 66 Atlantic Street, said she has lived in Gloucester for 14 years and with her husband are promoting "green" boat building design because food matters. She stated that farm fishing is not what should be pursued and we should support sustainable fishing in the feeding world. She stated that she found the evenings presentation to be pessimistic with images of deterioration: the property owners that didn't keep up repairs hurt those that did. She had handout which she encourage everyone to read carefully, saying that there are honest jobs on the waterfront, that there are lots of skills in Gloucester, and that sustainable fishing industry should be kept as a priority.

*Phil Bolger*, 66 Atlantic Street, made historical note regarding CT logo on Bird's Eye building, which refers to early company that built schooners. He stated that the fish are returning and that current fleet is built for 20<sup>th</sup> century fuel costs. He stated that we should build fuel efficient vessels and these designs could be translated to yachts.

*Sarah Robinson*, 4 Myrtle Square, said that she in an anthropologist and has worked with the harbor committee and is committed to the fishing industry. She stated that the reorganized industry can create change, and that unfortunately in Gloucester's diverse community, many groups don't know about each other's work. She made the following points: 1) ongoing effort to rebuild ground fish by 2014; 2) New England Sea Coalition is based in Gloucester and is strong voice for ME, RI and New Bedford; 3) There's mitigation for permitting: Gloucester Permit Bank has 10 million permits; 4) 2006 draft cites Gloucester as a regional hub port. She concluded by saying that Gloucester is still a fishing port and we need to reinvest industry to help small businesses.

*Joanne Castano*, 4 Old Bray Street, said that having spent time in Salem she learned how that city revitalized its heritage. She stated that Gloucester has been a vibrant working port and community, and that artists and fishermen have always worked together. She would like Gloucester to invest in more studios in order to keep artists in Gloucester. She said that Gloucester has more artists than in the whole north shore.

*Marcia Hart*, 2 Fremont Street, presented visuals regarding I4C2: a pin that read "I Foresee Too" and some post cards showing I4C2 as a green open space on the harbor. She expressed support for retaining the open space.

*Ms. Buck* thanked everyone for coming and sharing their ideas. She stated that the harbor is a vital place and needs more vitality. She expressed how impressive the panel is with all the experience the members have brought to the table.

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Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Preston